



## Zero Waste Business Rebate

### Rules, Terms and Conditions

Rebate is available only to commercial business and multifamily properties located within the City of Austin that meet all of the following conditions:

- Reimbursement from the Zero Waste Business Rebate Program may not exceed \$1,800 per property or business.
- Rebate funds are not guaranteed.
- No more than ten (10) property locations are eligible per owner each calendar year.
- Funds for reimbursement must be incurred AFTER the rebate application is signed by both the City and the participant, and after the project eligibility confirmation email has been sent by City staff.
- The Zero Waste Business Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible participants; there will be no reservation system or rain checks.
- The Applicant must [register as a City of Austin vendor and provide a Vendor ID Number](#).
- Participants must agree to submit invoices for materials purchased or collection services received in order to receive reimbursement from the City. A participant's failure to provide itemized invoices **DISQUALIFIES** the participant from the Zero Waste Business Rebate.
  
- Rebate may be used for the following:
  - 1) Increase recycling capacity at a multifamily property  
Starting October 1, 2020, multifamily properties with five or more dwelling units that contract with a private hauler for waste removal (not City of Austin service) will be required by ordinance to increase existing recycling capacity to 24 gallons per dwelling unit per week or a 1:1 ratio between trash and recycling. Rebate funds may be used to increase recycling capacity before the ordinance start date.  
Applicant must provide City staff with:
    - An electronic or hard copy of a new or amended contract that demonstrates increased recycling service from a [licensed private hauler](#) to meet a 1:1 ratio or 24 gallons per dwelling unit. Receipts dated October 18, 2019 through August 1, 2020 may be eligible for reimbursement. No expenses will be reimbursed beyond August 1, 2020.  
Rebate may be used toward one of the following:
    - Pouring a new concrete slab, if needed to add recycling capacity. Provide electronic or hard copy receipts for construction materials and labor (up to \$1800).
    - Building a new enclosure to house the new recycling containers. Provide electronic or hard copy receipts for construction materials and labor (up to \$1800).
    - Reimbursement for up to 6 months of commercial recycling service, provided by a licensed private recycling hauler, not to exceed \$300/month (up to \$1800).
  - 2) Provide composting or other organics diversion service at a non-food-permitted business.



Applicant must provide to City staff:

- An electronic or hard copy of a contract for at least 3 months of commercial organics diversion service. Service must be provided through a [licensed private hauler](#).
- At the time of application, City staff shall verify the business does not have a food permit and is not currently affected by the organics requirements of the Universal Recycling Ordinance.

Rebate can be used for:

- Purchase of BPI-certified compostable can liners
- Reimbursement for up to 3 months of commercial compost service, not to exceed \$200/month
- Hauler start-up fee (a one-time fee), not to exceed \$75.

- 3) Replacing single-use plastic bags with paper or reusable bags to be distributed at no cost to customers.

Applicant must provide City staff with:

- A purchase receipt for the purchase of single-use plastic bags within the six (6) months prior to rebate application date. The receipt shall verify the existing distribution of plastic bags at the business or property seeking the rebate.

Rebate can be used for the following:

- Purchase of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-labelled paper bags
- Purchase of reusable canvas bags or bags that are similar in make and material

- 4) Replace foam containers and cups with compostable alternatives.

Applicant must provide City staff with:

- A purchase receipt of polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers or cups within six (6) months prior to rebate application date. The receipt shall verify the existing distribution of polystyrene containers or cups at the business or property seeking the rebate.

Rebate can be used for:

- Purchase of BPI-certified compostable containers
- Purchase of BPI-certified compostable cups

- 5) Replacing plastic straws with compostable or reusable straws.

Applicant must provide City staff with:

- A purchase receipt of plastic straws within six (6) months prior to rebate application date. The receipt shall verify the existing distribution of plastic straws at the business or property seeking the rebate.
- If purchasing compostable straws, proof of compost service shall be provided through receipt for commercial compost service dated after the rebate application date or through an on-site compost unit visually verified by a City staff member at a rebate site visit.

Rebate can be used for:

- Purchase of Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)-certified compostable straws
- Purchase of reusable straws for customer or employee use



- Rebate may **NOT** be used for taxes, deposits, payment for employee training time, costs to comply with city ordinances, payment of City utility bills, service provider late payment fees, service provider contamination fees, or any other purpose not specifically allowed under these Rules, Terms, and Conditions, unless pre-approved in writing by City staff.
- Recycling or compost collection costs exceeding the calculated rebate amount are the responsibility of the participant.
- Applicant understands the City is not a party to any contract between the participant and any vendors or service providers. The City will not intervene in the event of a participant's dispute with a third party.
- A participant shall be **DISQUALIFIED** from the Zero Waste Business Rebate Program if the participant violates the City of Austin Code, other City regulations, state or federal law, or the Rules, Terms, and Conditions of this Program. A participant shall also be **DISQUALIFIED** if the participant fails to pay taxes. The participant shall forfeit the rebate if the City has not yet paid the rebate funds to the participant. If the City has paid the rebate funds to the participant and the participant is disqualified from the Program, the applicant is liable for repayment of the funds received.
- **Applicant hereby releases and agrees not to hold liable the City of Austin, its elected officials, officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims of any kind arising from Applicant's participation in the Zero Waste Business Rebate Program. Applicant further recognizes that this is not a contract or debt of the City.**
- **Applicant must certify in writing that all invoices it submits are authentic and/or true and correct statements of expenses incurred by the Applicant as part of this Program.**
- Applicant understands that the City may amend or terminate the Zero Waste Business Rebate Program without notice and that receipt of funds by Applicant is contingent upon Applicant meeting all Program requirements.